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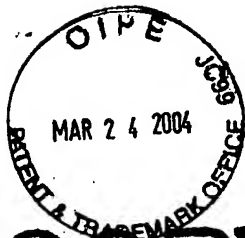
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**PATENT**  
Attorney Docket No.: ASC-022CPCN

**Particulars of prior application:**

Serial No.: 09/599,260  
Filing Date: June 22, 2000  
Examiner: R. Kunemund of Art Unit 1765  
Status: Allowed

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANT:	Wu et al.		
SERIAL NO.:	Not yet assigned	GROUP NO.:	Not yet assigned
FILING DATE:	Herewith	EXAMINER:	Not yet assigned
TITLE:	ETCH STOP LAYER SYSTEM		

Mail Stop Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Please enter the following preliminary amendment before beginning examination of the above-identified continuation patent application.

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Specification:**

On page 1, after the heading "PRIORITY INFORMATION," please rewrite the paragraph on lines 4-6 as:

This application is a continuation application of Serial No. 09/599,260 filed June 22, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part application of Serial No. 09/289,514 filed April 9, 1999, which claims priority from provisional application Serial No. 60/081,301 filed April 10, 1998.